



Urban District of Whittlesey

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1964.

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OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

D.A. Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
6, Delph Street,  
Whittlesey.

Telephone No.

Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3, 167
Rateable Value (at 31.12.64.)	£322, 160
Product of ld rate (at 31.3.64.)	£1,284. 14s. 0d.
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	9, 630



TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report on the health of the population of Whittlesey for the year 1964.


Once again it gives me great pleasure to express my deep appreciation of the work carried out by my colleagues in the Health Department, Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Tyers. They have continued to give most conscientious service in carrying out their duties and have been most courteous and understanding in dealing with the general public.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health



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## VITAL STATISTICS

### LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	87	83	170
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Total :	92	85	177

### Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	--	18.38
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	--	18.56
England and Wales	--	18.4

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births 3.9

### STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	--	--	--
Illegitimate	--	1	1
Total :	--	1	1

### Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	--	5.6
England and Wales	--	16.3

Only one stillbirth occurred during the year giving a rate of 5.6 for Whittlesey compared with the rate of 16.3 for the whole of England and Wales. This stillbirth had severe malformations of the brain and spinal cord incompatible with survival.

### TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	87	83	170
Illegitimate	5	3	8
Total :	92	86	178





INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under one year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
Total:			

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District -	33.89
England and Wales -	20.0

The Infant Mortality rate for Whittlesey, 33.89, was higher than England and Wales as a whole. Six deaths occurred during the year. Two were associated with prematurity and another two had severe congenital abnormalities incompatible with survival for any length of time.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 23.53

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 285.7

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District -	16.95
England and Wales -	13.8

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 16.95

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 22.47

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)

Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District -	0
England and Wales -	226

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District -	0.0
England and Wales -	0.25



# DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	54	<u>Female</u>	47	<u>Total</u>	101
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Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	11.53
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	13.26
England and Wales	-	11.3

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied by the Registrar General for 1964 : -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	5
Coronary disease, angina	15	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	2	3
Other circulatory diseases	2	4
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	-	8
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	6	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total:	54	47



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Another outbreak of measles occurred during the year but only 94 cases in all were notified which was less than half the number reported during the previous year. All cases were of moderate severity. It is hoped that in the not too distant future some means of immunisation against measles will be available and will prove as effective as immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis.

### NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1964 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	53	41	94
Whooping Cough	11	6	17
Dysentery	5	11	16
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3
Food Poisoning	2	1	3
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	--	1
Paratyphoid	1	-	1
Meningococcal infection	1	-	1
Virus encephalitis	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	77	60	137
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TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my ninth Annual Report on the work carried out in the year 1964.

No one aspect of the duties calls for any special mention, it should, however, be pointed out that Acts and Regulations are passed every year which extend the existing duties of the Department. These are welcome for the improvements they achieve in enviromental health although it is becoming increasingly difficult to give sufficient attention to all the various facets of the work.

Mention must be made of the Organisation and Methods Survey executed by Messrs. S.J. Noel-Brown & Co. Ltd. at the request of the Council. The investigation took some two weeks, close study of the Health Department occupied almost two days. The ensuing report did not cover in any great detail the functions of the Department.

I am pleased to record my thanks to the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health for their continued support and to acknowledge the assistance received from the Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Tyers for the able and pleasant help she has given throughout the year.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

Water is purchased in bulk from Peterborough Corporation. Storage and distribution in the Urban District are under the control of Mr. J.M. Harris, the Surveyor & Water Engineer.

Frequent orthotolodine tests were made of the water from domestic taps and a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found. The water is not plumbo-solvent. Peterborough Corporation test the water regularly and no treatment other than chlorination is carried out.

Although in the rural parts of the area there are many isolated houses only twelve do not have mains water supply.

The total consumption of water for the year, domestic and trade, was 133,789,000 gallons.

The Council are progressing with preparations to lay a new trunk main from Peterborough and to increase the storage capacity at the reservoir.

### CARAVANS

There are 16 licences issued under the Caravan Act for single sites and one multiple site. These sites have been satisfactory and are of a good standard.

The County Planning Authority are still considering action to close two unsatisfactory multiple sites which have deemed planning permission.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the Town Area and the villages of Coates and Eastrea are sewered. Because of the flatness of the area this sewerage relies on five pumping stations.

It is regretted that the bad conditions arising from overflowing septic tanks in part of Snoots Road which have been referred to in previous reports still exist. The Council's Consulting Engineers were engaged to carry out the necessary survey and to take action to carry out roadworks including the provision of a sewer under the Private Street Works Act, which will remedy these conditions.

## NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

The Council employs a Contractor to empty pails, vaults and cesspools at properties which cannot be connected to the sewer. The Contract in 1964 covered 183 pails which were emptied three times in every fortnight. Septic tanks and vaults are emptied free on request once in any period of six months. The unsatisfactory tanks in Snoots Road are emptied more frequently to try to avoid overflowing. More houses are becoming modernised and the number of pails and vaults is decreasing in consequence.

There have been fewer complaints of delays in this service, the Contractor has mainly emptied appliances within the time allowed him. Unfortunately a request for emptying a septic tank is often not received until it is overflowing and there must inevitably be a delay before the Contractor can get around to emptying it.





## REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. The town area is collected weekly by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle with compressor which is driven by the foreman and has four loaders. The outside areas are collected by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle which has a driver and one loader. Built up areas are collected weekly and more isolated dwellings have a three weekly collection.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Any repairs not covered by guarantee are carried out by local garages.

Despite the fact that as more houses are being built and the weekly load increases only a few complaints are received about this service. These all arise from late collections caused by Bank Holidays or long spells of bad weather. The foreman and staff continue to give a most satisfactory service, it is by their efforts that the collection runs smoothly and pleasantly.

Altogether 153,779 refuse bin collections were made in the year, together with trade refuse collected weekly from 38 premises, this resulted in 1073 journeys to the refuse tip.

No. of bins collected during year	153,779
Town round weekly average	1,945
Outside area weekly round	1,012

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse disposal tip is situated in New Road not far from the centre of the town but away from dwellings.

The tip is open for the reception of rubbish and one man is employed full time to carry out levelling and to salvage scrap metals which are found during the levelling operations. By accepting rubbish it is hoped to prevent the indiscriminate tipping of unwanted articles in dykes, grass verges, etc.

Approximately two acres of the finished tip was covered with top soil, levelled and seeded at a cost of two hundred and sixty five pounds (£265). This is cut regularly, it has improved the appearance of the tip from the adjoining railway line and has eradicated the nuisance of weeds being blown on to adjoining allotments.

Being a potential source of rat infestation regular poison baiting was carried out and a good measure of control was achieved.



### OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES

With the coming into force of the Act covering the above premises, it was decided to send out application forms to all those known to require registration. One hundred and forty forms were sent out, most were returned. A limited number of inspections were made, mostly in connection with the filling in and returning of the forms.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### SWIMMING BATHS

The Council opened an open air heated swimming pool in the Manor Field, Station Road. The pool is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. The Manager carried out tests twice daily, more frequently in times of heavy loads, and by careful control of the continuous filtration and chlorination plant a satisfactory standard was maintained. Bacteriological samples were also satisfactory in spite of high attendances.





## MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

The Council are one of the authorities taking part in the National Survey of Air Pollution carried out under the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

An air sampler is sited at the Sir Harry Smith School from which daily readings are taken of concentrations of smoke and sulphur dioxide. From this information the amounts are calculated and expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre of air sampled. The results, together with weather data, are sent to Warren Spring Laboratory.

The table below shows monthly average readings and the reading for the highest day's pollution in each month. The Smoke/SO<sub>2</sub> Ratio gives an indication of the source of pollution, industrial chimneys show a lower ratio than domestic chimneys.

The summer average for smoke (April to September) of 24 ug/m<sup>3</sup> increases to 99 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, for the winter average the sulphur dioxide is only increased from 71 ug/m<sup>3</sup> to 101 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. The extra pollution consists largely of smoke which comes from domestic chimneys.

Month	Average Smoke	Highest Day	Average SO <sub>2</sub>	Highest Day	Smoke/SO <sub>2</sub> Ratio
January	135	298	124	318	1.1
February	134	348	117	248	1.1
March	66	228	56	155	1.2
April	38	128	91	408	0.42
May	17	40	53	206	0.32
June	19	49	66	198	0.28
July	13	30	67	176	0.19
September	36	69	79	138	0.45
October	86	175	97	452	0.88
November	85	172	106	269	0.8
December	88	259	108	259	0.81



## INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1964 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notice</u>	<u>Statutory Notice</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	42	7	-
Drainage	23	9	3
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	51	8	--
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops	197	4	--
Food Shops	78	12	-
Restaurants	17	-	--
Verminous and Filthy Premises	2	1	--
Housing	166	15	--
Nuisances	41	11	2
Rats and Mice	36	3	-
Caravan Sites	34	2	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	88	-	-

Of the 72 informal notices served 63 were complied with. 5 statutory notices served during the year were complied with.

## DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No infestations of vermin were reported or found.

A number of complaints were received about mosquitoes and the dykes and ponds in which larvae were found were treated.



## HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1964 :-

By Local Authority	6 Bungalows
By Private Enterprise	89 Houses and Bungalows

34 applications were made for Improvement Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

Notices of Time and Place to consider the condition of twenty dwellings were served in the year and the following action taken :-

Demolition Orders	13
Closing Orders	7

34 dwellings were demolished and 10 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

The 6 bungalows built by the Council were at Coates and these were used to re-house persons from unfit dwellings of long standing. A further 6 bungalows and 6 houses under construction at Coates will help to deal with nearly all the outstanding unfit houses in that area.

In the Town Area condemnation of unfit dwellings was restricted as there was no new building being carried out. Last year 115 dwellings were constructed by the Council and whilst it may be economically sound to undertake big contracts from time to time, a steady flow would enable a more systematic slum clearance programme to be carried out.

Work on the Flatlet Scheme in Gracious Street was commenced in October and when completed will provide accommodation for 20 single elderly persons.

During the year the Housing Committee discussed the types of dwellings they had provided and investigated the possibility of various improvements.

## RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications under the above Act during 1964.





FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1964

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	1	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced.	48	39	1	-
Other premises	7	6	-	-
TOTAL :	55	46	1	-

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	-	1	-
TOTAL :	1	1	-	1	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.





## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### ICE-CREAM

There are 40 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

### CONDEMNED FOOD

12 certificates were issued covering 101 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers. Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip. It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

As a result of the typhoid outbreak in Aberdeen the Ministry of Health gave instructions for all tins of corned beef and tongue packed during a certain period at one canning factory to be withdrawn. All food premises were visited and 34 tins were found and withdrawn from sale. One partly used and one unopened tin was tested by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Peterborough but both were found not to be affected by Typhoid bacillus.

### FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	2
Cafes	3
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	32

Generally the standard of food premises and food handling is satisfactory although there is no room for complacency. The public have helped by drawing the attention of food handlers to unhygienic practices and by reporting them to the health department.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one modern privately owned licensed slaughterhouse in the area. It is well maintained and is capable of handling a much larger throughput than is being dealt with at present.

## KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises.

## MEAT INSPECTION

With the coming into force of the meat inspection regulations 100% meat inspection was attained by using the services of the Inspector from Old Fletton Urban District Council to cover holidays.

The new regulations give greater control over the slaughtering and enable a more thorough inspection to be made.

## LEAD IN IMPORTED TOYS

Although not coming within the category of food, some plastic toys imported from the far east were sampled for their lead content. Two sets were tested, a small tool set and a doll's vanity set, the results varied from 180ppm to 1,400 - 1,500 ppm of lead. The Public Analyst drew attention to the Home Office standard of 250 ppm and the Council took up the case with the Urban District Council's Association. The shopkeepers voluntarily withdrew the sets from stock.



## MEAT INSPECTION

### Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	97	-	2	350	409	-
Number inspected	97	-	2	350	409	-

### All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	7	11	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	11.34	-	50	2	2.7	-

### Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.95	-

### Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-





## MEAT CONDEMNED

### Bovines

1 calf and offal pyaemia immaturity	62 lbs.
4 livers distoma	16 lbs.
3 livers abscesses	42 lbs.
1 heart, liver, spleen, glands, stomach etc., inflammation	70 lbs.
1 head and tongue actino bacillosis	27 lbs.
Part forequarter beef - bruising	21 lbs.
<del>Part</del> kidney nephritis	1 lb.

### Pigs

8 heads and tongues tuberculosis	76½ lbs.
7 hearts and lungs inflammation	16½ lbs.
1 kidney spleen and fat inflammation	4 lbs.
1 liver cirrhosis	3 lbs.
1 liver cysts	4 lbs.
1 kidney cysts	1 lb.

### Sheep

6 livers distoma	17 lbs.
1 liver inflammation	1 lb.







